

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 9:18:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

February 7, 2019
2:50pm HRE Hearing on SB1418:
Relating to the University of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1418 Relating to the University
of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council

SUBMITTED BY . Amy Agbayani, co-chair

FILIPINA ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN)

3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hi 96819

Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the
Committee. on Higher Education:

I worked at UH for over four decades and am now an emeritus assistant vice chancellor for student diversity. My professional career and my community advocacy work relates to access to higher education for underrepresented groups and support for diversity and civil rights in our state. Today I am representing the FILIPINA ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN) a group that advocates for programs and policies to improve the status of Filipinos in Hawai'i and advocate for an inclusive community.

FAN supports SB1418 which provides funds and four positions for the UH Pamantasan Council, a council with representatives from each of the ten campuses. The Council continues to support and advocate for courses on Philippine languages, Philippine Studies, and the Filipino experience in Hawaii; initiatives to increase transfers from two year campuses to four year programs, to increase the number of bachelor's and professional degrees and support more faculty, staff and administrators at UH.

Although there has been progress in many areas, Filipinos (includes part Filipinos) are now the second largest ethnic group in the state (26%), significant percentage are low income, and only 17% have a BA or higher (compared to Native Hawaiians 14%, Caucasians 42% and Japanese Americans 35%). Filipinos are the second largest group in the department of education (22%) and continue to be underrepresented in many UH programs. Data shows Filipinos are better represented at Maui 22%, West'Oahu 21%, Honolulu 19%, Leeward 19%, Kauai 17%, and Kapiolani 15%. Filipino students at Hawai'i CC are 9%, Hilo 8% and Windward 5%. Filipinos are severely underrepresented at Manoa : undergraduates 10%, graduate students 4% (few are in medicine and Law), and faculty 3%.

Data shows Filipino undergraduates and graduate students outperform their non-Filipino peers in terms of degree attainment at the 4 year campuses and the community colleges. The priority issues identified by the Pamantasan Council include: low transfer rates from the CCs to 4 year campuses; low enrollment at the graduate level; few faculty particularly at West O'ahu and Manoa; lack of Philippine language and related courses at most campuses.

Proposed program activities will be at all ten campuses and funds requested will be for each of the 10 campuses (e.g. student programming, student employment and lecturers). The requested four positions will be hired at the campus level and work cooperatively systemwide on 1) graduate student recruitment; 2) CC transfers to four year campuses and c) curriculum (e.g. distance education language classes, Academic Subject certificate in Philippine/Filipino studies) and co-curriculum projects (e.g. systemwide Pamantasan conference, exchange programs). With adequate staffing, the Council will be more effective in meeting the University's strategic direction to increase graduates (the Hawai'i Graduation Initiative), and to support the state's

workforce development goals and our aspiration for inclusion in our multiethnic state. The Filipino students, their families and the community seek access to higher education. The very large population of Filipinos in the state and the public schools means that DOE and UH can meet their mission by providing programming to increase the Filipino UH graduates who can join be part of our state's educated workforce and active citizens in our community. We respectfully request your support of sb1418 for the UH Pamantasan Council.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 10:05 am

By
Dr. Lori Ideta
Vice Chancellor for Students
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1418 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa supports the intent of SB 1418, which would provide resources for the system wide Pamantasan Council to promote access and diversity. The word "Pamantasan" is a Filipino word meaning "higher education". The Pamantasan Council, established in 1987, is open to all students, administrators, faculty and staff from the various UH campuses.

The Pamantasan Council addresses issues of representation, curriculum and research, partnerships with public schools, universities in the Philippines and other states, workforce development and community services. The Council holds annual and periodic workshops to identify priority issues and needs consistent with the University's commitment to access and diversity.

The Pamantasan Council needs resources to implement (a) recommendations of the 2008 SCR 120 report to the Legislature regarding Philippine language courses, teacher training and certification; and (b) Pamantasan conference recommendations such as developing courses for articulation between community colleges and 4-year campuses. With additional funding and positions, UH and the Pamantasan Council can provide necessary expertise and energy to increase the University's national leadership in Philippine Studies (UH Mānoa and Leeward CC are leaders in offering academic programs). In addition the appropriated funds will be used to support on-going recruitment and retention efforts (federal programs such as GEAR UP at Waipahu high school) to increase the number and success of Filipinos at each campus, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs, faculty, staff and administrators. Also, the funds will expand the curricular content on Philippine language, Philippine Studies and Filipino American Hawai'i ethnic studies, which at this time are very limited or not available at the various campuses.

SB 1418 includes information on recent census, UH and DOE data on Filipinos (second largest group in the state and the department of education) and their under-representation among college graduates, and current UH students, staff and faculty.

The University thanks the Legislature for introducing this bill and for its continuing support for access and diversity.

The University supports the intent of SB 1418 provided that its passage is an addition to the priorities as indicated in our University of Hawai'i Board of Regents Approved Budget.

SB-1418

Submitted on: 2/19/2019 10:04:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2019 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Agnes Malate	Testifying for Filipinos for Affirmative Action	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Agnes Malate and I am in full support of Senate Bill 1418 to fund four full-time equivalent positions for the system-wide Pamantasan Council, including instructional faculty, student personnel, and graduate assistantships. I am a member of the Filipinos for Affirmative Action and have worked 30 years to increase diversity in education from high school to college. As a Faculty Specialist and having recently earned a PhD in Educational Foundations at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), I am a beneficiary of the transformative power that a college degree has for an individual, family, and community. I can also attest to the direct impact that affirmative action and diversity programs have had on improving the lives of the students who participated in these programs.

The Pamantasan Council was established in 1987 to address the academic success and careers of Filipinos and the quality of education for all students at the University. As a young professional who had just joined the staff at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, I was excited to be part of the planning committee for the first system-wide Pamantasan conference that included students, staff and faculty the following year. For the first time there was a unified effort to understand and address the needs of Filipinos in education and the workforce.

The Council convenes every year, rotating among the UH campuses, to share our efforts on increasing the student, staff, and faculty representation throughout the system. We also are concerned with the underrepresentation of Filipino teachers and administrators in the department of education, especially in comparison to the disproportionately higher enrollment of the Filipinos in the public school system. Incremental steps have been made in offering Philippine and Filipino-American courses in the curriculum. However, after over 30 years it is critical that funding is provided to implement the recommendations and strategies set forth in previous Pamantasan reports. Activities proposed by the different campuses, require funds and positions to ensure adequate faculty, student service personnel, lecturers, graduate assistants, and student staff.

According to the UH Institutional and Research Office Fall 2018 enrollment data (<https://www.hawaii.edu/institutionalresearch/home.action>), Filipino students enrolled in the UH Community Colleges is 17.8% but are only 9.8% at UHM (11.7% of all

undergraduates and 5% of all graduates). These figures continue to be lower than Filipino students' public school enrollment (23%). Examining selected majors, 10.0 % of Filipinos are in education, 2% in law, and 6% in medicine. The only major that Filipinos have consistently been well represented is nursing (22.4%). It is the most popular major that Filipinos are encouraged to pursue. In large part due to the high percentage of Filipino nurses in the workforce and access to them via a network of family and friends, a career in nursing has been a proven career path for Filipinos. For many Filipinos who are first-generation college students they lack role models, support systems, and university services to help them successfully navigate the higher education setting. However, they possess the ingredients to excel in education, contribute as professionals in Hawai'i's workforce, and be outstanding leaders. The activities recommended by the Pamantasan Council will strengthen pathways to college and other careers for Filipinos, and foster knowledge and understanding in all students on Filipino culture, history, and contributions.

As the second largest ethnic group in Hawai'i, it is critical that attention be given to the challenges faced by this population and funding be provided to support the efforts of the University of Hawai'i. I am grateful to the Committee for considering this bill to strengthen the University of Hawai'i's and the Pamantasan Council's ability to respond to the growing needs of the second largest ethnic group in the State and urge you to pass SB 1418.

Although I am an employee of UHM, this testimony reflects my personal position and is not the official position of the University of Hawai'i.

LATE

Christopher D. Yanuaria
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 20, 2019 10:05 PM

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 211

SB 1418: RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i Pamantasan Council for 4 full-time equivalent positions to promote access, diversity, and workforce development, including programs and policies related to Philippine courses and Filipino students.

Aloha Committee Ways and Means:

My name is Christopher D. Yanuaria, a proud Filipino alumni of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and currently the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Prevention Awareness Understanding (PAU) Violence Program Coordinator. I am testifying in support of SB 1418.

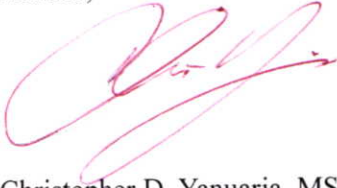
I was born and raised in Kahului, Maui. Since I was young, my parents who were migrants from the Philippines emphasized the importance of education because they wanted to ensure a better life for me and my sister. I have watched both of my parents work long hours and juggle multiple jobs to allow me to have studied in college. I was unaware that I was an anomaly in my Filipino community because I had a college degree.

It was concerning for me to learn that in Hawai'i despite the high representation of Filipinos in the general population and schools within the department of education, students of Filipino ancestry were underrepresented in the University of Hawai'i system. The goal of the Pamantasan Council is to help promote access and diversity on the University level by addressing unique challenges faced by Filipino families in Hawai'i. The Pamantasan Council also helps to empower students by teaching and celebrating the rich Filipino culture and heritage, which have been found to improve Filipino enrollment and retention.

On a personal level, I have come to better understand my own ethnic heritage and come to appreciate the diversity Filipinos bring to Hawai'i thanks to the encouragement and support from my colleagues in Pamantasan. If it was not for my parents, family, and others like my colleagues, who supported my

academic and professional endeavors, I do not think I would have gotten to where I am today. My hope is that other Filipinos can have the same opportunity as I did. For this reason, I urge you to please support SB 1418.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Chris Yanuaria', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher D. Yanuaria, MSW
Program Coordinator University of Hawai'i at Mānoa PAU Violence Program